

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 18, 20-27, 29-36 and 39 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 21, 22, 30 and 31 are amended to even more clearly distinguish over the applied reference. No new matter is added by the above amendments.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-15, 18, 20, 23-27, 29, 32, 33, 35, 36 and 39. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 21, 22, 30, 31 and 34 also are patentable for the reasons set forth below.

Claims 30 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,838,426 to Shinonaga et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Shinonaga et al. does not disclose or suggest a projection exposure apparatus having a wavelength adjusting device that changes the wavelength of the illumination light according to the change amount of the installation environment at each exposure shot, as now recited in independent claim 30. Shinonaga et al. discloses "[i]n order to meet daily pressure changes, every time wafers to be processed are loaded into the projection exposure apparatus, the pressure measurement is performed." Then, "[o]n the basis of the result of measurement," the wavelength is adjusted and the exposure process is performed with the adjusted wavelength. See col. 10, lines 1-8. Thus, Shinonaga et al. does not disclose or suggest changing the wavelength "at each exposure shot" as recited in independent claim 30. With respect to the comments regarding claim 30 set forth on page 6 of the Office Action, the device of Shinonaga et al. does not inherently perform the claim 30 adjustment at each exposure shot. Accordingly, claims 30 and 31 are patentable over Shinonaga et al. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 21, 22 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Shinonaga et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For the reasons set forth above, Shinonaga et al. does not disclose or suggest changing a wavelength of the illumination light according to the change amount of the installation environment at each exposure shot, as now recited in claim 21. Accordingly, claims 21, 22 and 34 are patentable over Shinonaga et al. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

MAC/ccs

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination

Date: February 8, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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